

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-05

CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SOE-01 DOE-12 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8022

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, PE

SUBJECT: GULF SEEKS LIFTING OF BAN ON BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN PERU

REF: LIMA 7300

1. GULF VICE PRESIDENT FOR LATIN AMERICA LUMKIN AND LATIN AMERICAN OPERATIONS MANAGER DRURY ACCOMPANIED BY LOCAL LAWYER BRIEFED AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 12 REGARDING GULF'S INTEREST IN SEEING IF GOP WOULD BE WILLING TO RESCIND THAT PORTION OF EXPROPRIATION DECREE WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED AS PROHIBITING GULF FROM DOING BUSINESS HERE. SOME OF POSSIBILITIES WHICH LUMKIN MENTIONED HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH GOP INCLUDE MARKETING OF LUBRICANTS AND EXPLORATION/EXPLLITATION ACTIVITIES. GULF IS ALSO INTERESTED IN SALE OF CRUDE TO PERU DURING BRIEF PERIOD BEFORE PERU REACHES SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

2. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION, GULF LAWYER, RAUL DERRERO, INFORMED ECON OFF THAT GULF OFFICIALS HAD MET DECEMBER 12 AND 13 WITH (LAME-DUCK) ENERGY AND MINES MINISTER
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LA TORRE FOR 45 MINUTES AND HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MINISTRY AND PETROPERU OFFICIALS (INCLUDING VICE MINISTER SAETTONE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HYDROCARBONS ROBLES, PETROPERU GENERAL MANAGER BRUCE). ACCORDING TO FERRERO, PERUVIANS WERE NONCOMMITTAL ABOUT AMENDING EXPROPRIATION DECREE, ALTHOUGH HE FELT THEY HAD LEFT DOOR OPEN. PETROPERU ALSO PROVIDED GULF WITH SPECIFICATIONS

FOR JUNGLE EXPLORATION/ EXPLOITATION AND FERRERO SAID THAT GULF MAY SEND A GEOPHYSICIST TO PERU TO DO PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE JUNGLE AREAS OPEN TO FOREIGN COMPANIES. FERRERO STATED THAT THE GULF OFFICIALS WERE INTERESTED, BUT NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, REGARDING EXPLORATION/ EXPLOITATION PROSPECTS, THOUGH HE ADDED THAT GULF OFFICIALS WOULD PROBABLY RETURN TO PERU TO PURSUE THEIR TALKS WITH THE GOP.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOT RAISED WITH GOP, AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR GULF'S DESIRE TO SEE THE BAN ON BUSINESS ACTIVITIES LIFTED IS THAT GULF IS PURCHASING KEWANEE INDUSTRIES WHICH HAS INTERESTS HERE IN PLASTICS AND PAINTS. LUMKIN CONFIDED TO US THAT GULF WOULD BE RELIEVED TO HAVE THE DECREE RESCINDED SO AS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE FUTURE DIFFICULTIES.

DECON 12/23/78.
SHLAUDEMAM

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